

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 172816  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARA:LPOPE  
APPROVED BY NEA/ARA:MDRAPER  
S/S-0SRPVALERGA  
MPI NOTE REENTERED DUE TWO ADDEES ON ONE LINE  
-----067282 081816Z /41  
O 081708Z JUL 78 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM NIACT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS NIACT IMMEDIATE IMMEDIATE  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T STATE 172816

EXDIS

MO. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, CE, IS

SUBJECT: THE MOOD IN EAST BEIRUT

1. LEBANESE SOURCE IN WASHINGTON IN FREQUENT TELEPHONE  
CONTACT WITH MILITIA LEADERS, ARMY LEADERSHIP, AND OTHERS  
IN EAST BEIRUT TELLS US THAT:

-- BASHIR GEMAYEL IS TAKING THE POSITION THAT THERE CAN BE  
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NO COMPROMISE OF ANY KIND WITH THE SYRIANS, PARTICULARLY  
ON THE QUESTION OF TAKING ANY ACTION AGAINST HADDAD AND  
SHIDIAC. HE IS QUOTED AS TELLING HIS FOLLOWERS THAT "WE  
WILL NOT GIVE UP TWO DOGS, LET ALONE TWO HEROES."

-- THE MILITIAS ARE TAKING OUT HEAVY WEAPONS FROM STOCK-  
PILES, ARE WELL SUPPLIED WITH WEAPONS SUCH AS RPG'S

AND HAVE ENOUGH AMUNITION TO FIGHT FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

-- THERE WERE ONLY FOUR FIGHTERS KILLED IN THE SHELLING.  
REMAINDER OF ROUGHLY 150 KILLED WERE CIVILIANS.

-- MARONITE TROOPS FROM LEBANESE ARMY BARACKS AT SARBA,  
FIYADDIEH, AND ROUMIEH ARE DEFECTING IN LARGE NUMBERS AND  
GATHERING IN THE MOUNTAINS OUTSIDE BEIRUT PREPARED TO INTER-  
VENE AGAINST THE SYRIANS IF FIGHTING BREAKS OUT AGAIN. TWO

NEWLY FORMED BRIGADES AT YARZE, HOWEVER, ARE STANDING  
FIRM FOR THE MOST PART.

-- MORALE AMONG THOSE LEFT IN EAST BEIRUT IS HIGH.  
WATER AND ELECTRICITY SERVICES HAVE BEEN RESTORED.

-- MILITIA LEADERS ARE CONVINCED THEY CAN COUNT ON  
ISRAELI SUPPORT IF FIGHTING RESUMES, AND MILITIA  
ELEMENTS ARE DETERMINED TO PROVOKE THE SYRIANS. A  
BUNKER PSYCHOLOGY HAS DEVELOPED. FEELING IS THAT THIS  
IS THE TIME TO BRING THINGS TO A HEAD AND GET THE  
SYRIANS OUT ONCE AND FOR ALL.

2. EMBASSY BEIRUT MAY WISH TO COMMENT ON WHETHER THIS  
IS AN ACCURATE PICTURE, AND ON WHAT CHANCES ARE THAT  
COOLER HEADS IN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CAN CONTROL THE  
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SITUATION. VANCE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SITUATION, MILITARY PLANS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THE MOOD IN EAST BEIRUT  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, LE, IS, SY, CE  
**To:** BEIRUT TEL AVIV MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/d89ae378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
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